

publishes a Notice, on a weekly basis, identifying unutilized, underutilized, excess and surplus Federal buildings and real property that HUD has reviewed for suitability for use to assist the homeless. Today's Notice is for the purpose of announcing that no additional properties have been determined suitable or unsuitable this week.

Dated: February 19, 1998.

**Kenneth C. Williams,**  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Grant Programs.

[FR Doc. 98-4858 Filed 2-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-29-M

## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4322-N-01]

### Statement of Policy on Disclosure of Mortgage Loan Sales Information

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, HUD.

**ACTION:** Notice of FOIA Mortgage Loan Sales Policy.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the policy of the Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding information that will be provided when responding to Freedom of Information Act requests for information on the Department's Mortgage Loan Sales Program. This notice sets forth that policy and its rationale.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** February 27, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Irwin P. Raji, Assistant Managing Attorney, FOIA Division, Room 10250, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street SW, Washington DC 20410; telephone (202) 708-3866 (this is not a toll-free number). Speech or hearing impaired individuals may access this number via TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purposes of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's mortgage loan sales program are to (1) reduce losses to the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) fund and provide the greatest return to U.S. taxpayers; (2) reduce the inventory of Department-held mortgages; (3) improve mortgage loan servicing and rental services for residents of projects by returning the mortgage loans secured by these mortgages to the private sector; and (4) improve the servicing of the Department's insured mortgages to minimize losses to the FHA fund. (See, also, the mortgage sales notices

published by HUD in the **Federal Register** on July 14, 1995 (60 FR 36336); July 24, 1996 (61 FR 38467); November 15, 1996 (61 FR 58585); and July 7, 1997 (62 FR 86298, July 7, 1997.))

This notice sets forth the Department's policy pertaining to the release of records regarding those bids that the Department or its contractors have received to date under its mortgage loan sale program. When requested to provide records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the Department will produce relevant records in its files including, where available: (1) All potential bidders receiving bid materials; (2) all successful bidders and their successful bids and the mortgage loans attributable to such bids; (3) all unsuccessful bidders and their unsuccessful bids and the mortgage loans attributable to such bids; (4) the aggregate proceeds the Department received from the sale; and (5) the aggregate number of bidders.

Members of the public submitting FOIA requests pursuant to this notice should be advised that many of the original relevant records pertaining to HUD's Mortgage Loan Sales Program were compiled by contractors, and were not in the custody of, or subject to the control of HUD. Therefore, HUD's files may not contain complete records pertaining to mortgage loan sales.

A significant period of time has elapsed between the Department's last mortgage sale and the present. Thus, release of these records does not have material adverse consequences upon the economic interests of the participants of those mortgage sales. Moreover, this policy strikes a balance among the Department's policy of disclosing as much information as possible to the public within the spirit of the FOIA and harm to the U.S. taxpayer by restricting the Department's ability to meet its policy objectives, as stated above, and the mandates of section 203(k) of the Housing and Community Development Amendments of 1978, as amended. See 12 U.S.C. 1701z-11.

Dated: February 20, 1998.

**Nicolas Retsinas,**

Assistant Secretary for Housing Federal Housing Commissioner.

[FR Doc. 98-4868 Filed 2-26-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Notice of Receipt of Applications for Permit

The following applicants have applied for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*):

PRT-839466

*Applicant:* Richard Nelson Beckert, Addison, TX.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcass*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT-838345

*Applicant:* Columbus Zoological Gardens, Powell, OH.

The applicant requests a permit to import one male captive-born Pygmy chimpanzee (*Pan paniscus*) from Zoologico de Morelia, Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species through captive propagation.

PRT-839520

*Applicant:* Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey, Vienna, VA.

The applicant requests a permit to export and reimport captive born Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*), tigers (*Panthera tigris*), and a leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and progeny of the animals currently held by the applicant and any animals acquired in the United States by the applicant to/from worldwide locations to enhance the survival of the species through conservation education. This notification covers activities conducted by the applicant over a three year period.

PRT-839376

*Applicant:* Jeffrey Covey, Scottsdale, AZ.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcass*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT-839378

*Applicant:* Randolph S. Young, DDS, Yorba Linda, CA.